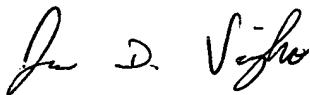


Claim 6 as originally presented in the international application as filed<sup>2)</sup>. No new matter has been added. Favorable action is solicited.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 14.1437. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Encl.: CLAIM AMENDMENTS (Appendix I)

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2) Cf. page 19, indicated lines 5 to 8, of the English language translation.

## APPENDIX I:

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Amend Claim 3 as indicated in the following listing of the claims:

1. (original) A process for preparing polyoxymethylene by contacting a formaldehyde source with a catalyst of the formula I



where

M is a metal of group VIII;

$L^1$  is cyclooctadiene;

each  $L^2$  is independently tetrahydrofuran or a ligand which is displaceable by tetrahydrofuran;

$Z$  is an anion;

$a$  is 1 or 2;

$b$  is an integer from 0 to 4;

$c$  is 1 or 2; and

$m$  and  $n$  are integers from 1 to 4.

2. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 where M is Co, Rh, Ir, Ni, Pd or Pt.

3. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 where  $L^2$  is selected from tetrahydrofuran, nitriles, CO, alkenes, amines, ethers, carboxylic esters, cyclic carbonic esters, epoxides, hemiacetals, acetals and nitro compounds.

4. (original) A process as claimed in claim 3 where  $L^2$  is selected from acetonitrile, tetrahydrofuran and CO.

5. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 where  $Z$  is a halide, sulfonate of the formula  $OSO_2R$ , where R is alkyl, partially or fully halogenated alkyl or aryl, carboxylate, complexed borate, complexed phosphate, complexed arsenate or complexed antimonate, with the proviso that not all  $Z$  radicals are halide.

6. (original) A process as claimed in claim 5 wherein at least one  $Z$  radical is a perfluoroalkylsulfonate, tetrafluoroborate, hexafluorophosphate or hexafluoroantimonate.

7. (*previously presented*) A process as claimed in claim 1 where the catalyst is selected from  $[\text{Pd(II)(cod)(THF)}_x](\text{SbF}_6)_2$  and  $[\text{Pd(II)(cod)(CH}_3\text{CN)}_x](\text{PF}_6)_2$  where  
cod is cyclooctadiene,  
THF is tetrahydrofuran and  
x is an integer from 1 to 3.
8. (*previously presented*) A process as claimed in claim 1 where the formaldehyde source is formaldehyde, trioxane or paraformaldehyde.
9. (*original*) A process for preparing polyoxymethylene by contacting a formaldehyde source with a catalyst of the formula  
 $[\text{Ir(III)Cp}^*\text{Cl}_2\text{Ir(III)Cp}^*\text{Cl}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$   
where  
Cp is pentamethylcyclopentadienyl.